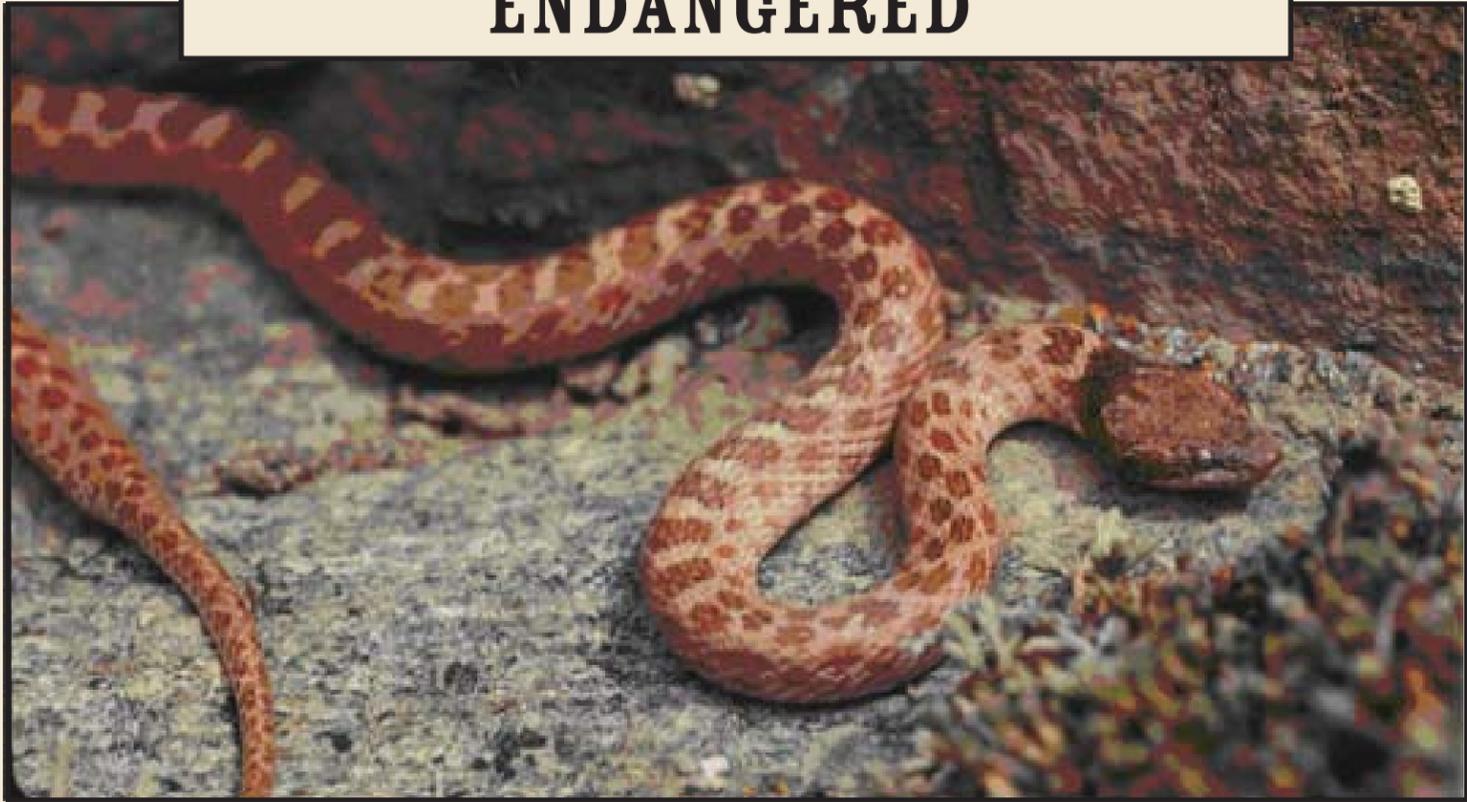


# WANTED

## DESERT NIGHT SNAKE ENDANGERED



A. VALEDDKA

## ALIVE & WELL

### Appearance:

The Desert Night Snake has a distinct blotch or "saddle" marking on the back of its neck. Its eyes are copper-coloured with elliptical pupils. This snake is very small and rarely exceeds half a metre in length.

### Did you know?

This elusive snake went undetected in the Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys until 1980. Since then, exhaustive searching has revealed about 50 individuals, all south of Penticton. Its rarity and restricted range has earned it the status of Endangered.

This inoffensive snake eludes detection by being most active at night. It preys on lizards and sometimes even baby rattlesnakes. It has a very mild venom but is not known to bite. It is sometimes seen crossing roads, under bales of hay and even once investigating a swimming pool. Conservation biologists are eagerly trying to find out more about this snake.

### Habitat:

This rare snake is found in arid habitats, most often in rocky areas. It often dens with other species of snakes in rocky outcrops and cliffs. The Night Snake is rarely seen in the heat of summer, presumably because it is deep in rocky areas.



### What you can do to help protect the Desert Night Snake

- Maintain natural habitats, especially rugged slopes.
- Leave rocks in their natural positions.
- Ask the Ministry of Environment if there are known locations and seek the assistance of a specialist to conduct a search before doing significant earth moving activities.
- Consider long-term protection of habitat through agreements such as conservation covenants.
- If you encounter one of these snakes, please take a picture, note the exact location where it was observed and report to the species at risk hotline.

**To report a Night Snake  
sighting please call the  
Species at Risk Hotline  
1-800-669-9453**

Supported by:



Text by M. Sarell  
Design and Editing by: S. Austen & A. Pulham  
Review by: O. Dyer & L. Stanlake